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THE NEW MUTANTS™



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THE NEW MUTANTS

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WELCOME TO PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNG-STERS. THESE YOUNG PEOPLE ARE HIS STUDENTS, THE NEW MUTANTS:

SAM GUTHRIE

ROBERTO da COSTA

DANIELLE MOONSTAR

RAHNE SINCLAIR

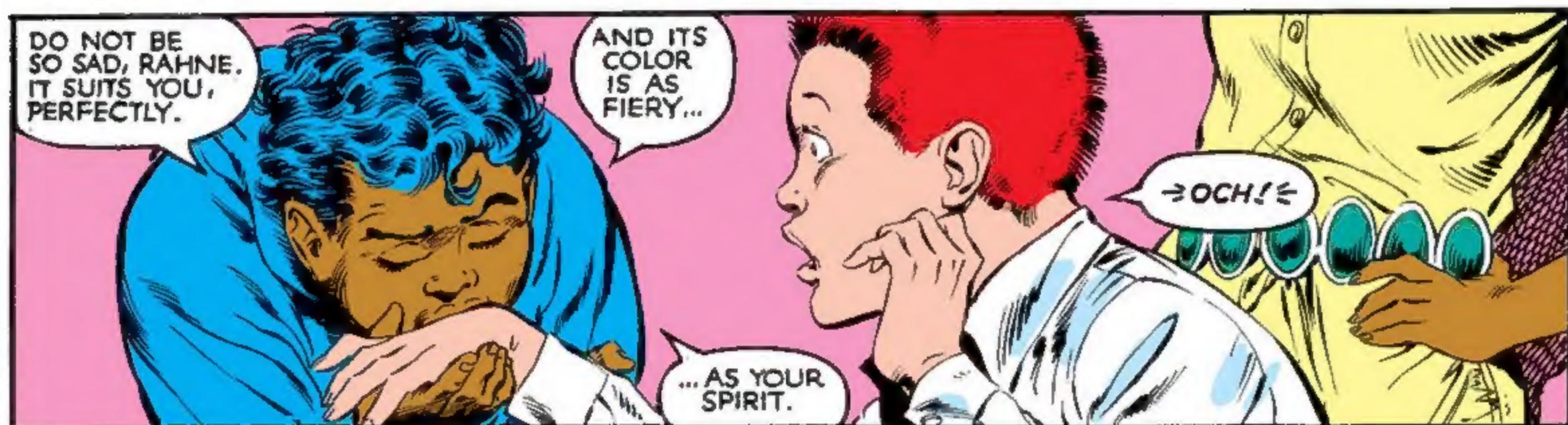
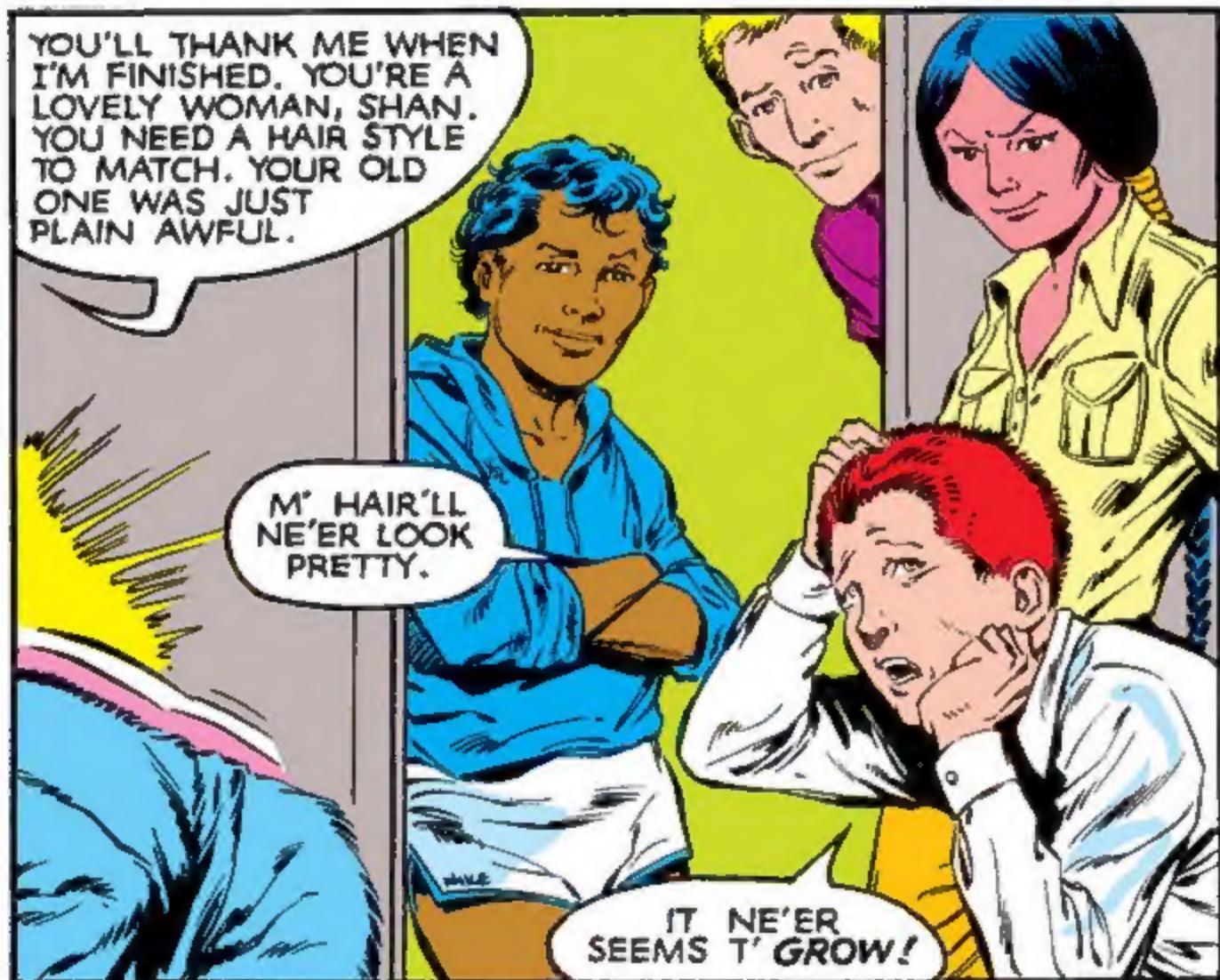
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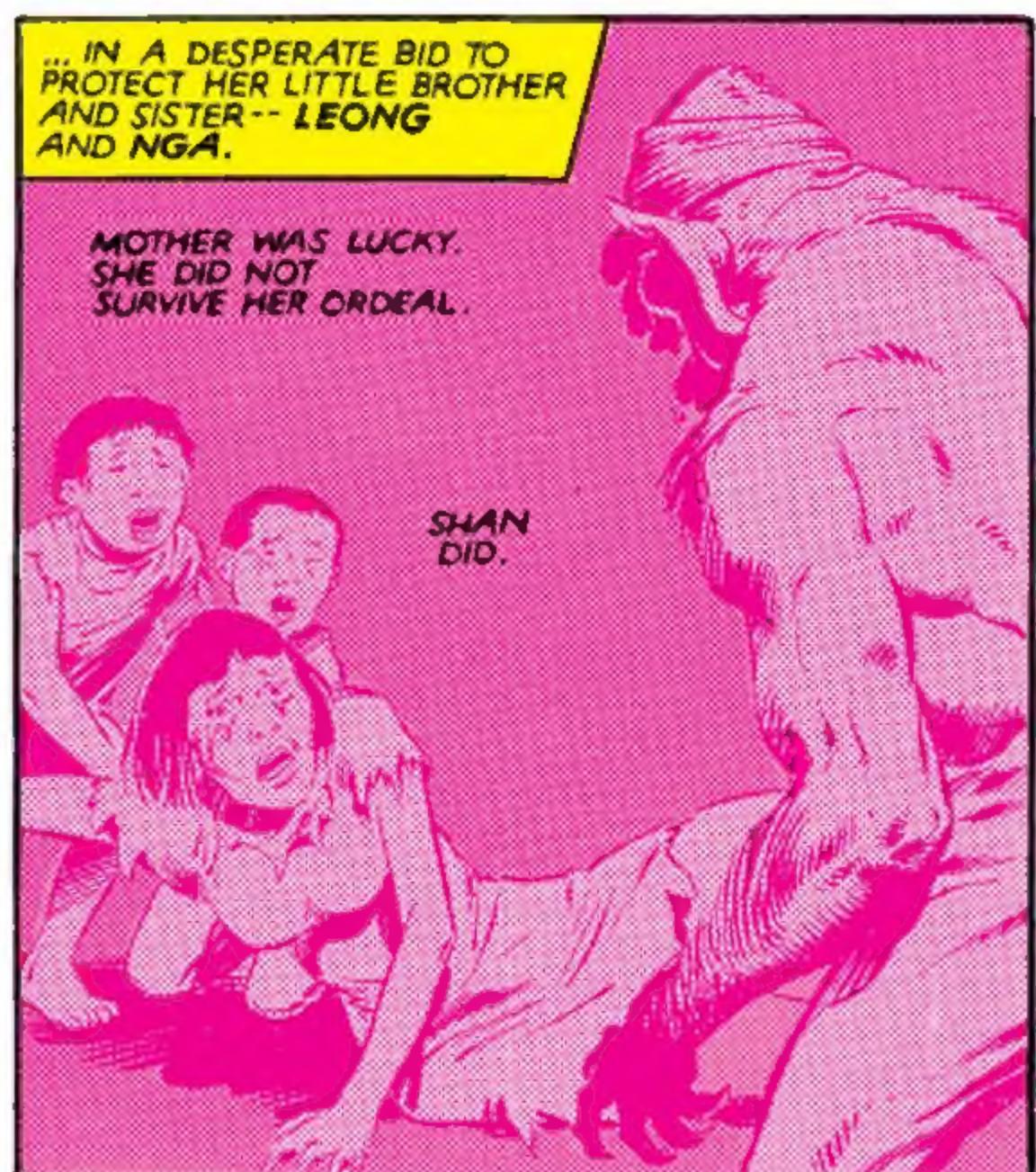
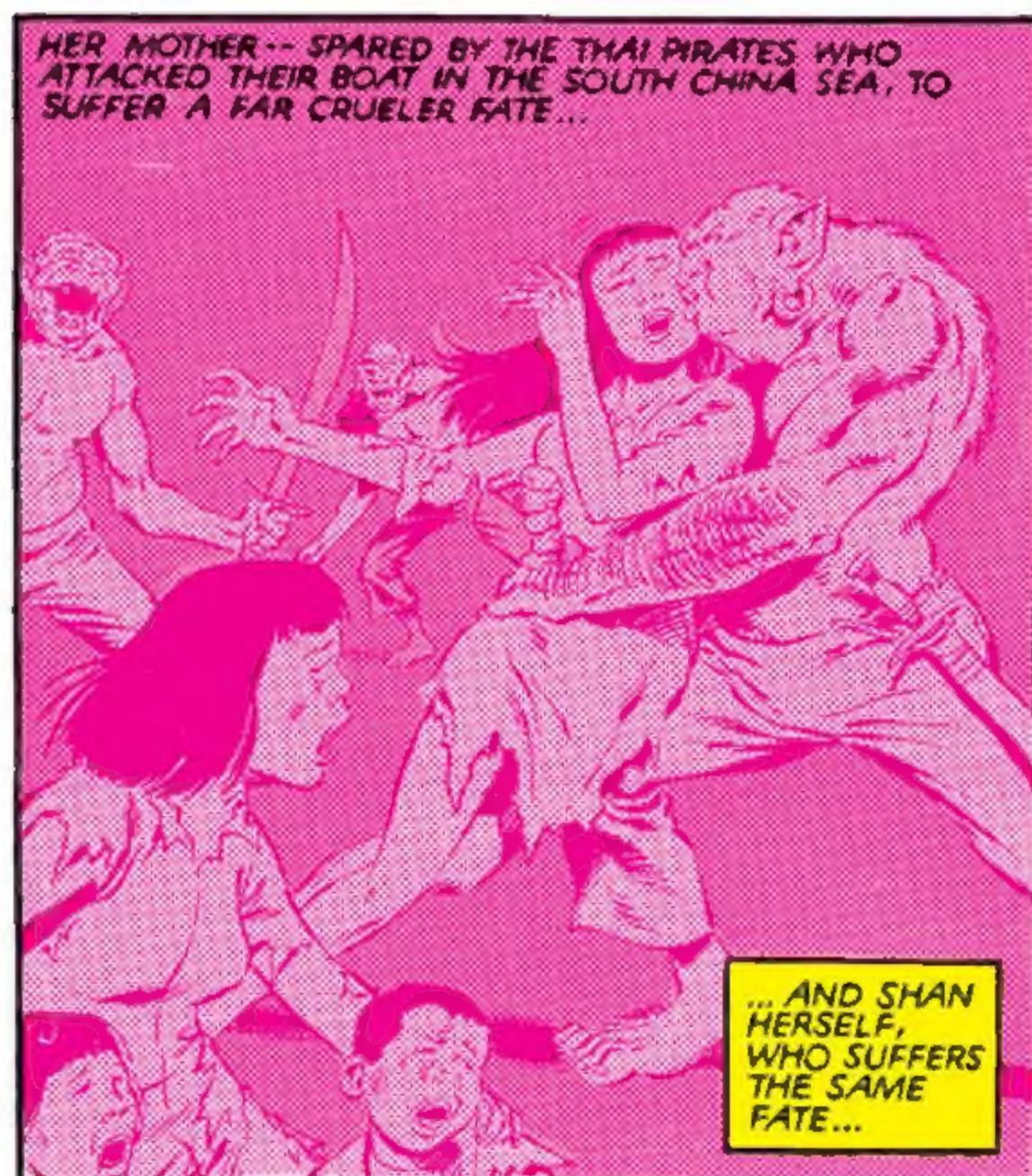
THE LADY
IS ONE
OF THEIR
TEACHERS,
STEVIE
HUNTER.

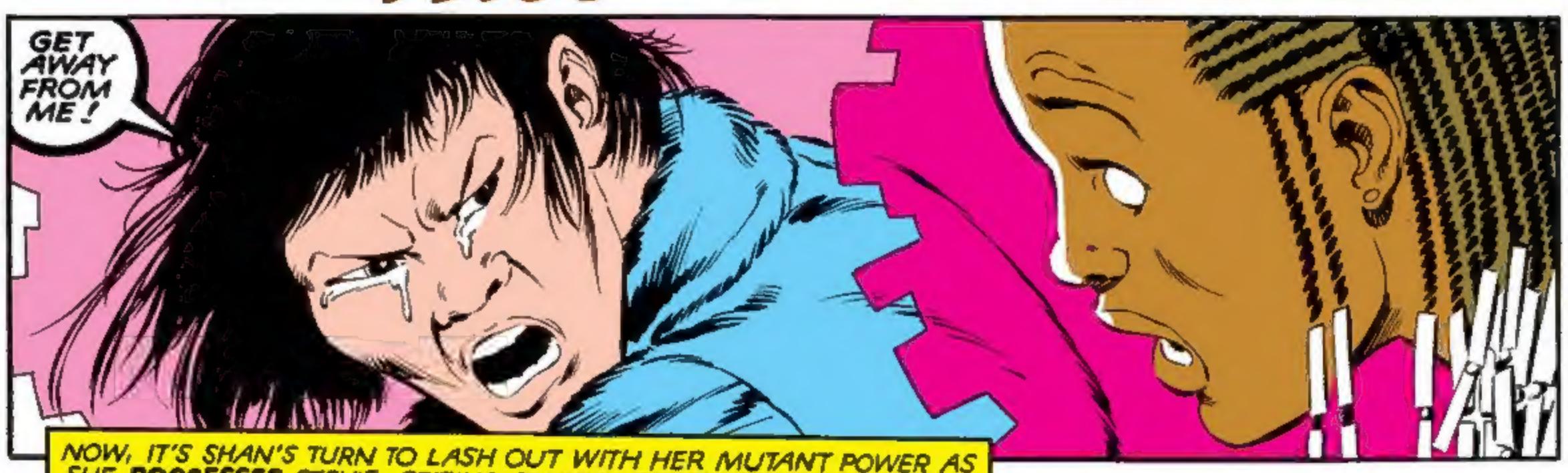
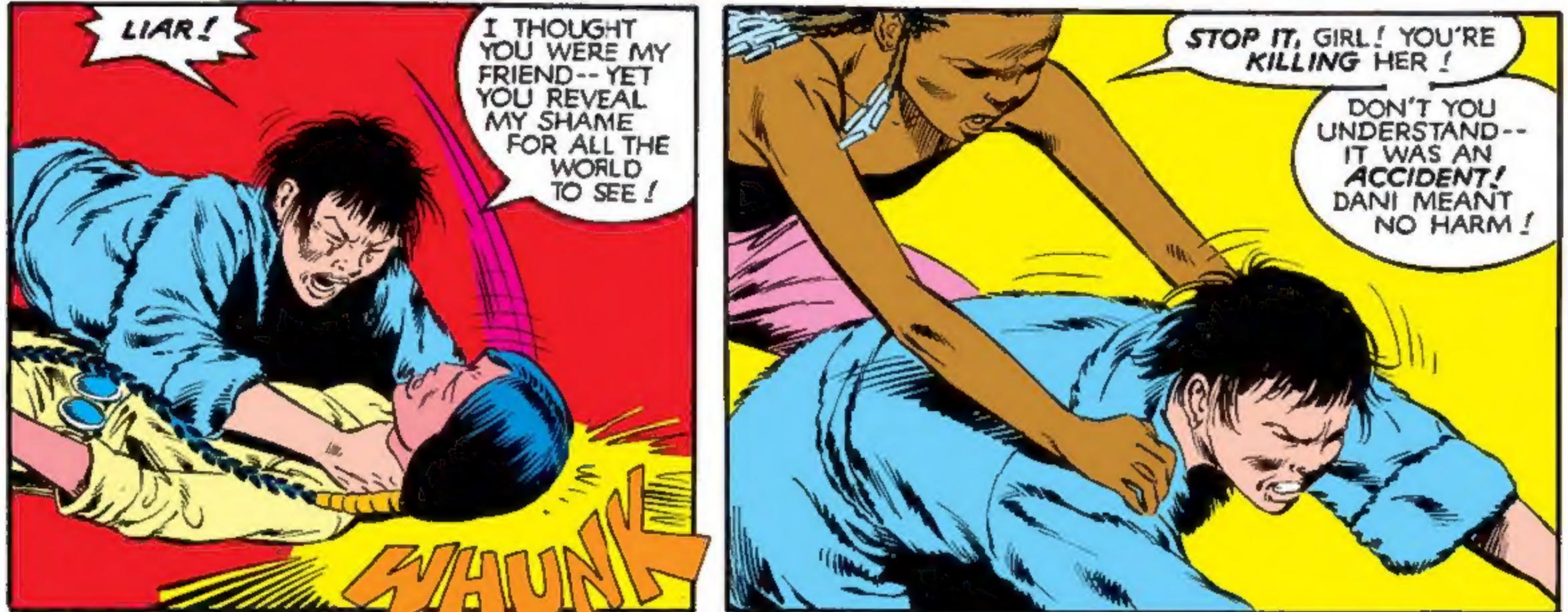
IS THIS
REALLY
NECESSARY,
STEVIE?

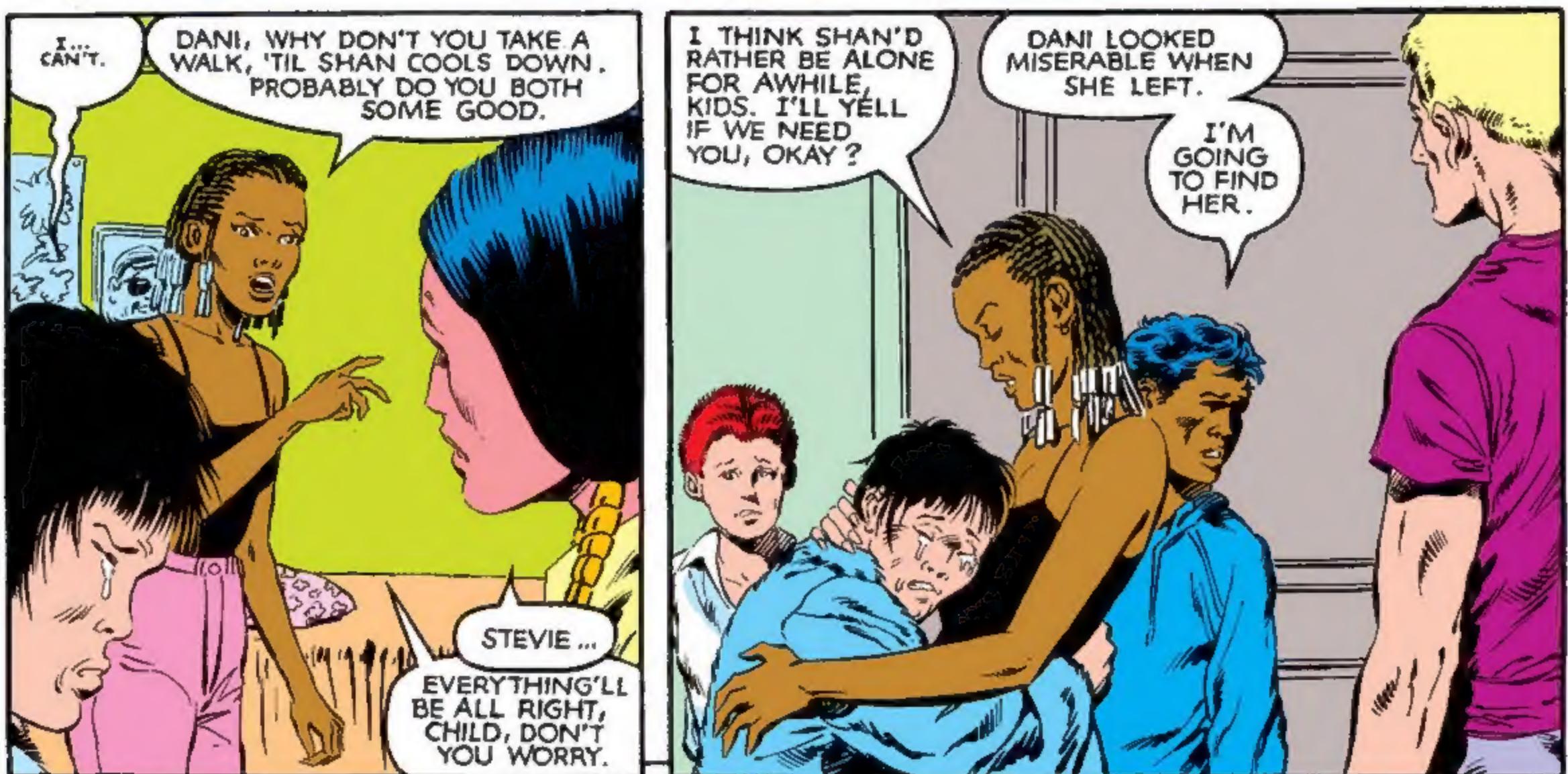
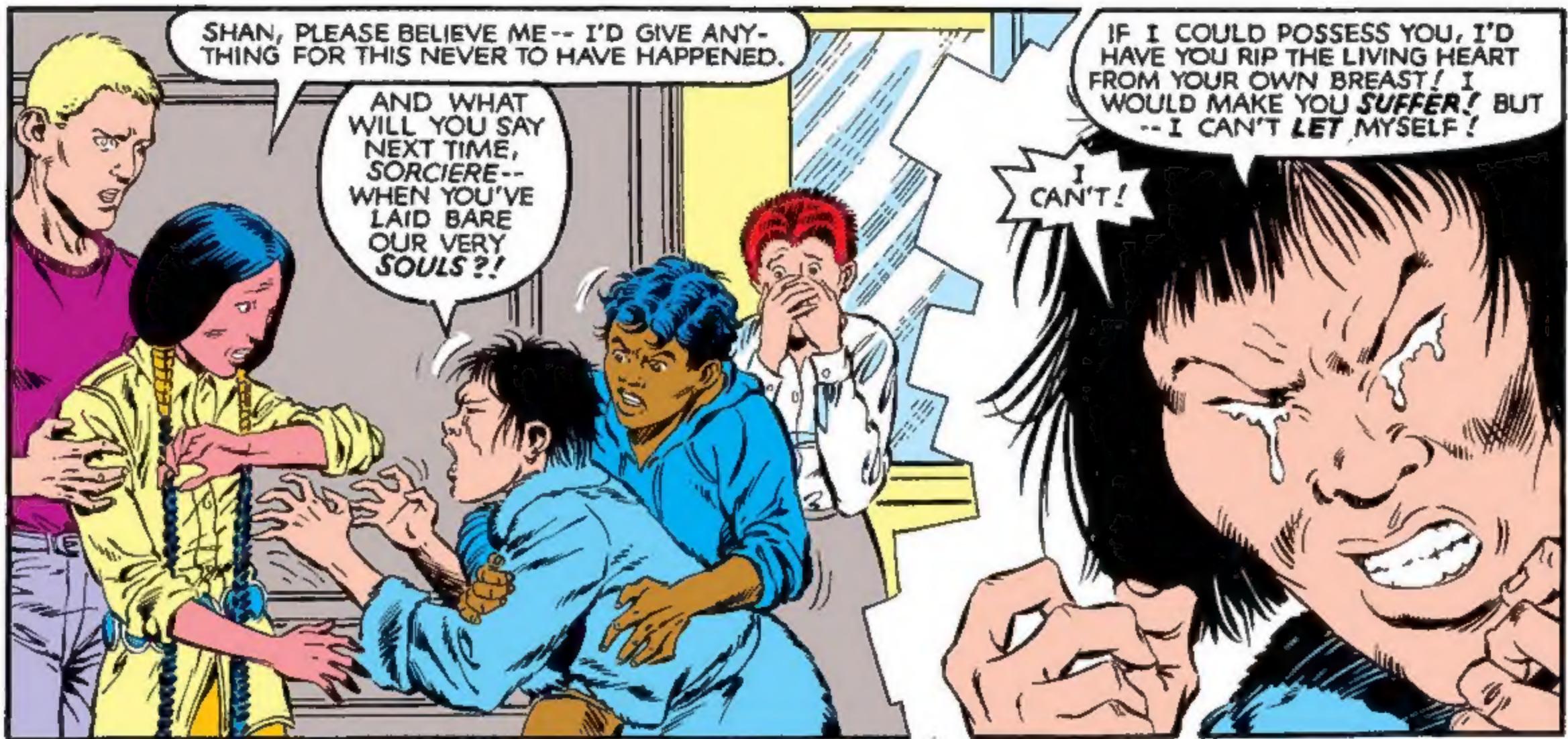
AND WHY DID
YOU HAVE TO LET
THE OTHERS WATCH?!

INITIATION!









ELSEWHERE IN THE SPRAWLING MANSION...

MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE LET SHAN BASH MY BRAINS OUT. IT WAS NO LESS THAN I DESERVED.

BEFORE HE DIED, MY GRANDFATHER COMMANDED ME TO LEAVE MY WYOMING MOUNTAINS-- TO COME HERE AND LET PROFESSOR XAVIER TEACH ME TO CONTROL MY ACCURSED MUTANT ABILITIES.

BUT ALL XAVIER'S DONE IS GIVE ME A STUPID COSTUME, AND MAKE MY LIFE MISERABLE.

WHERE AM I, ANYWAY? I'VE NEVER BEEN IN THIS WING.

OH! THIS MUST BE WHERE HIS OTHER STUDENTS-- THE ONES STEVIE CALLS "X-MEN"-- LIVE.

NICE ROOM-- AS MESSY AS MINE.



WHAT STRANGE-LOOKING PEOPLE.

I'VE MET ILLYANA RASPUTIN-- SHE'S IN ENGLAND WITH THE PROFESSOR'S PARTNER, Dr. MacTAGGERT-- SHE WAS A NICE KID, BUT WEIRD.

I WONDER IF SHE'S A MUTANT, LIKE US.



THE PROFESSOR NEVER TALKS ABOUT THE X-MEN. SOMETHING TERRIBLE MUST HAVE HAPPENED TO THEM. ARE WE SUPPOSED TO TAKE THEIR PLACE?

...EVEN IF I WANTED TO.

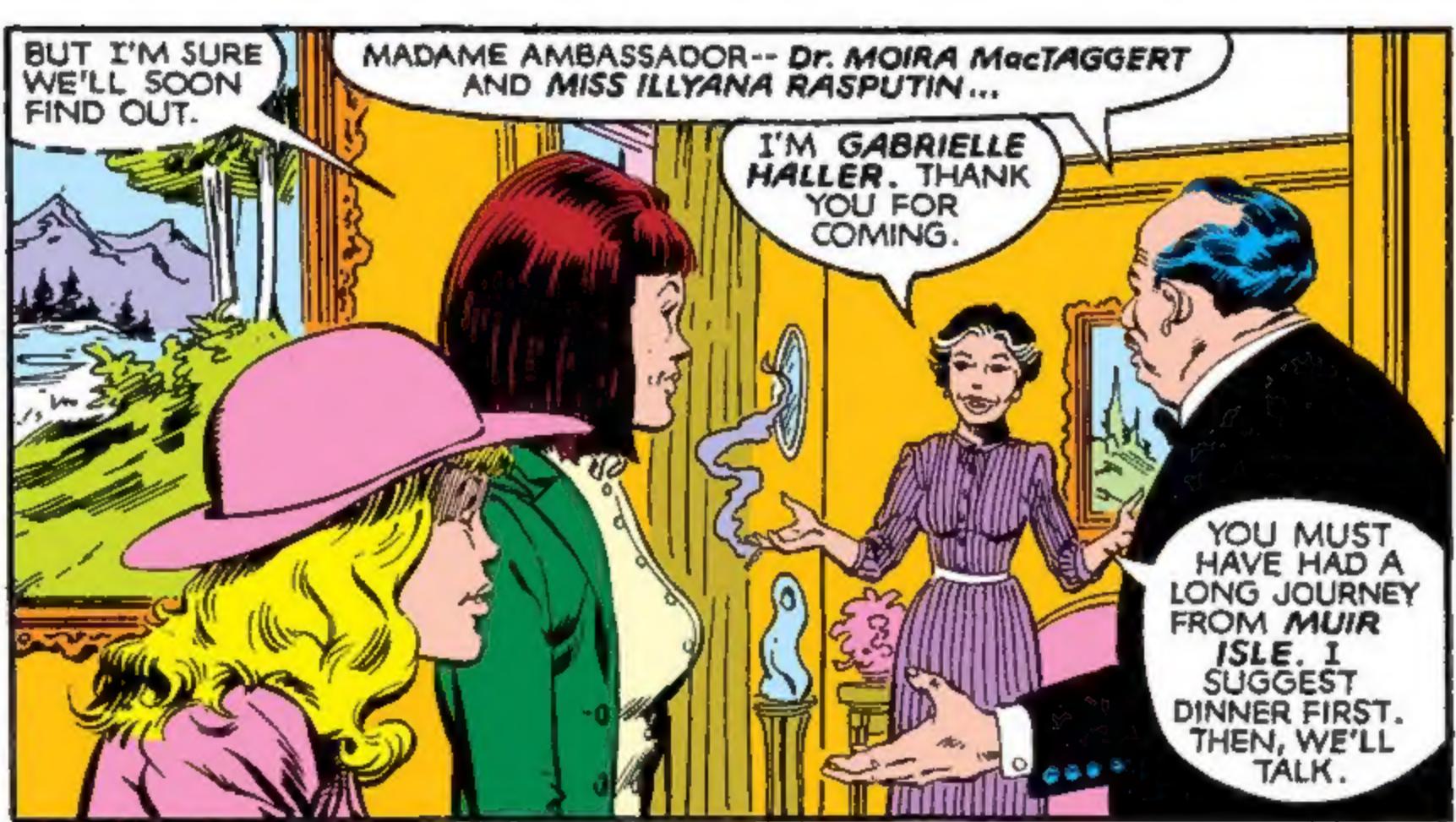
MY POWERS ARE DESTROYING MY LIFE-- AND ANY CHANCE FOR FRIENDSHIP OR HAPPINESS HERE...

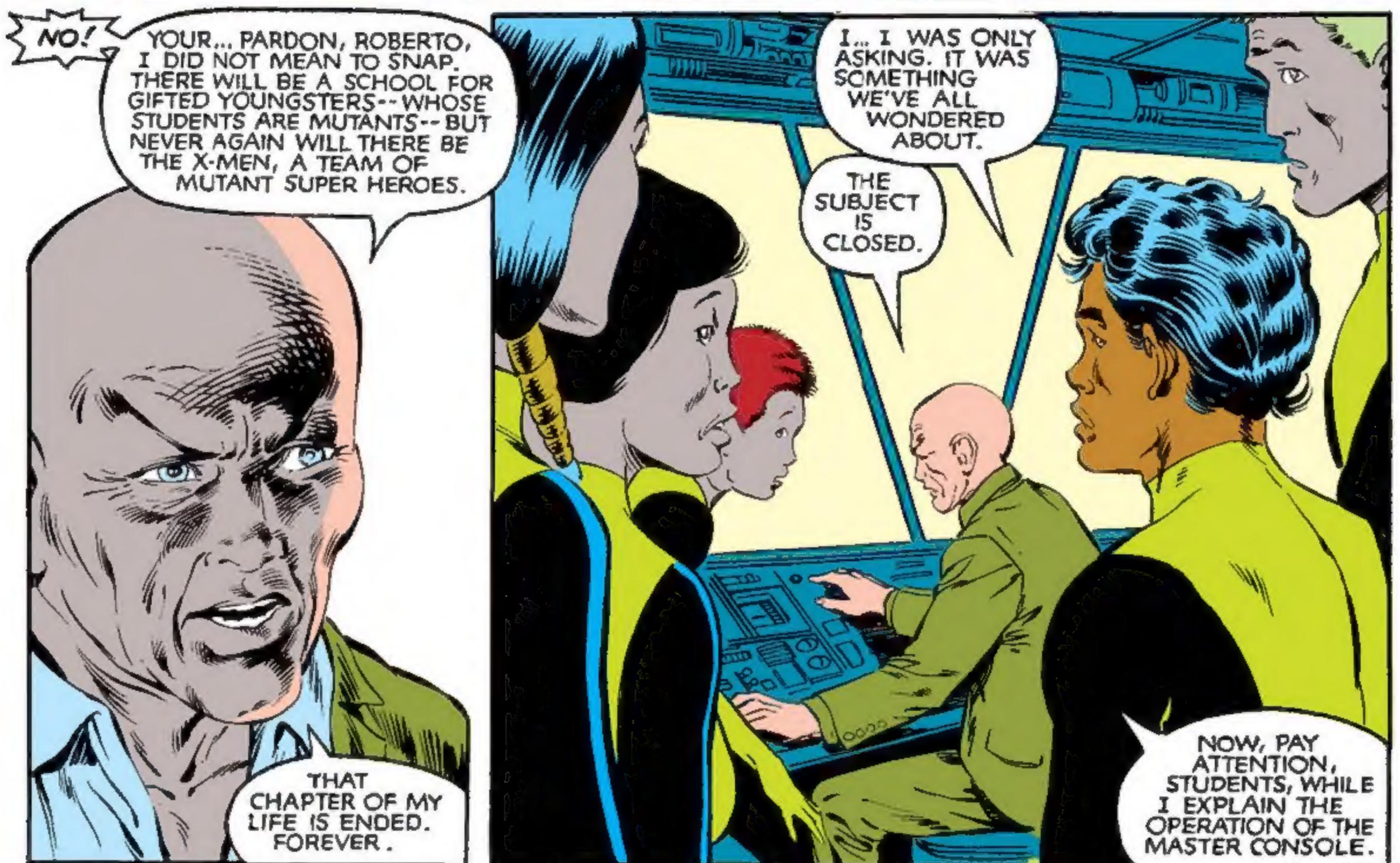
...JUST LIKE THEY DID BACK HOME.

WILL THEIR FATE ... BE OURS?
WHO CARES? I PROBABLY WON'T BE AROUND TO SHARE IT...

IT ISN'T FAIR!







FOR SAFETY'S SAKE, THE ROOM IS BURIED TEN METERS
BENEATH THE MANSION. ACCESS IS STRICTLY LIMITED AND
ITS DESIGN ENSURES THAT, WHATEVER HAPPENS HERE,
THOSE UPSTAIRS WILL NOT BE DISTURBED.

UNDER NO
CIRCUMSTANCES
WHATSOEVER IS THE
ROOM TO BE USED
WITHOUT AN ADULT
PRESENT--

--EITHER MYSELF,
Dr. MACTAGGERT
OR Ms. HUNTER.

I'LL NOW ACTIVATE
THE BASIC GYM-
NASIUM MODE.

Ms. HUNTER WILL BE IN
CHARGE OF YOUR PHYSICAL
FITNESS INSTRUCTION.

YOU MAY BELIEVE
YOU'RE IN GOOD SHAPE
BUT YOU'LL SOON
DISCOVER THAT--TO
PROPERLY UTILIZE YOUR
ABILITIES--YOUR
BODIES MUST BE
HONED TO THE LEVEL
OF CHAMPION
ATHLETES.

SOUNDS
T'ME LIKE...

...WE'RE GONNA
BE WORKIN'
OUAH TAILS
OFF.

INDEED,
SAM.

ALTHOUGH YOU NEW MUTANTS WILL NOT
FUNCTION AS THE X-MEN DID--ACTIVELY
SEEKING OUT AND COMBATING EVIL MUTANTS--
YOU MUST BE PREPARED FOR EVERY
EVENTUALITY.

THE GYM IN MY
FATHER'S HOUSE IN
RIO-IS AS WELL-
EQUIPPED, PROFESSOR.

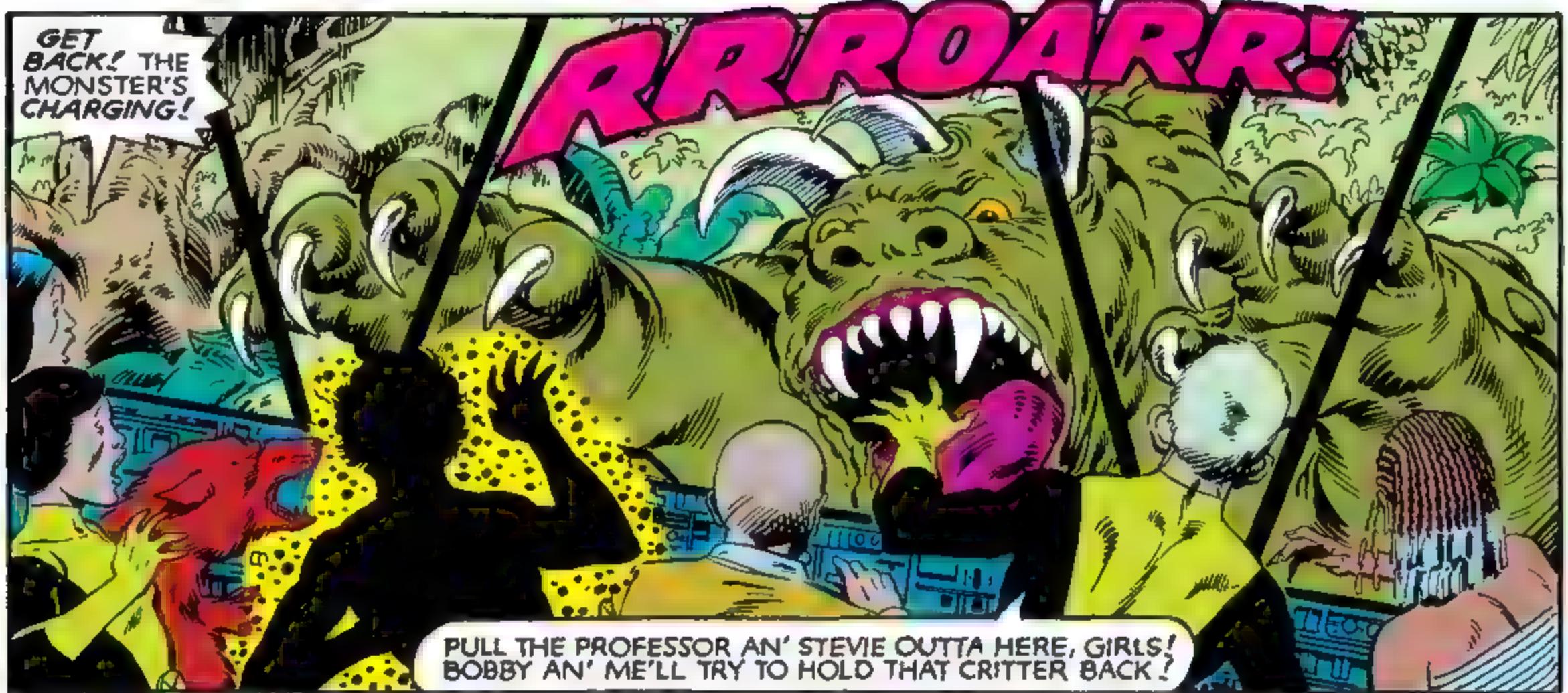
IS THAT A FACT,
ROBERTO? TELL
ME, CAN YOUR
FATHER'S
GYM--

--DO
THIS?

BLESSED
SAINTS!

WHAT
HAPPENED?!
EV'RYTHIN'
CHANGED!

FAR
OUT!





A MOMENT'S INTENSE CONCENTRATION IS ALL IT TAKES...

...TO TRIGGER THE THERMO-CHEMICAL REACTION IN AND AROUND SAM GUTHRIE'S BODY THAT PROPELS HIM THROUGH THE AIR LIKE A RUNAWAY ROCKET.



WOLFSBANE.



SHE MOVES
WARILY, USING
HER LUPINE
SENSES
SCANNING
THE ROOM
FOR UNEX-
PECTED
DANGER.



IT'S A GOOD
PLAN.

IT DOESN'T WORK.

IN MID-LEAP, RAHNE SHIFTS
TO A TRANSITIONAL FORM
THAT COMBINES THE BEST
ELEMENTS OF WOLF AND GIRL.
SHE GRABS HOLD OF A
LEDEGE, BUT...



IT'S
FLIPPIN' ME--



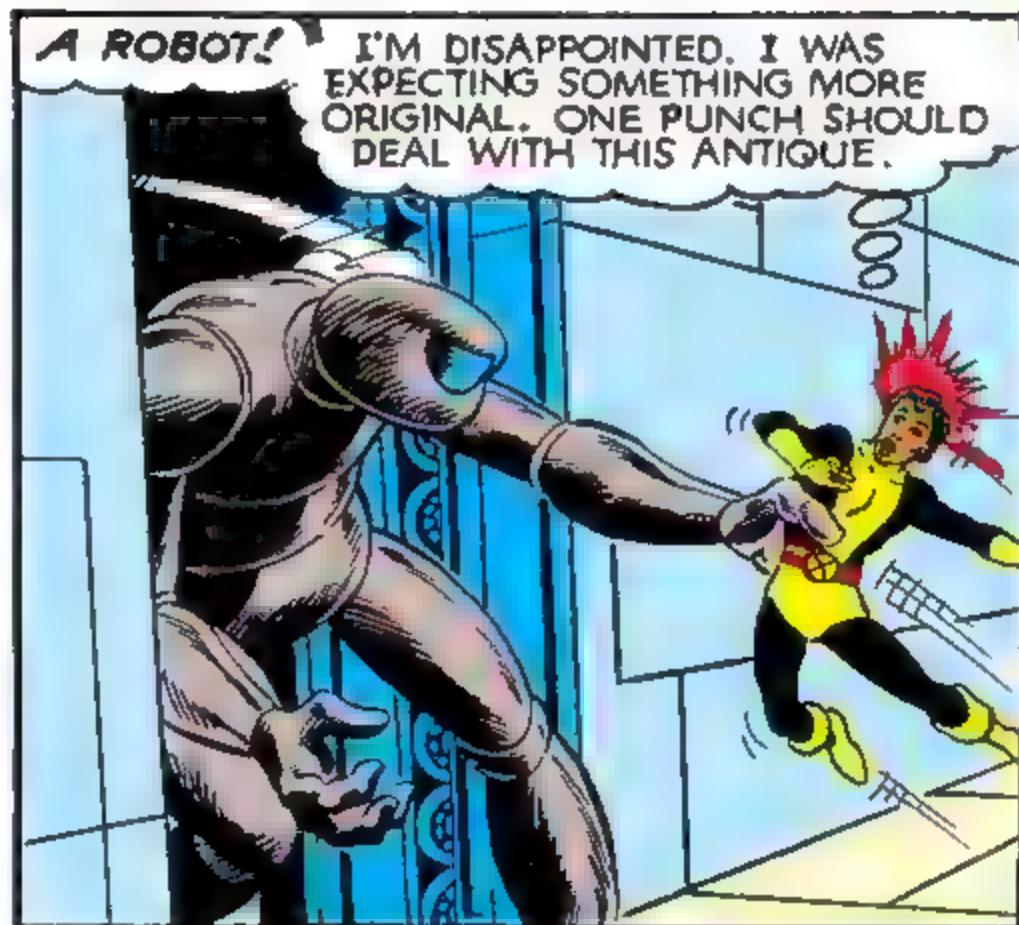
SUNSPOT.

IT WILL NOT BE EASY TO OUTWIT THE PROFESSOR. WITH HIS MENTAL POWERS, HE PROBABLY KNOWS EXACTLY WHAT WE ARE THINKING, OR FEELING.

A ROBOT!

I'M DISAPPOINTED. I WAS EXPECTING SOMETHING MORE ORIGINAL. ONE PUNCH SHOULD DEAL WITH THIS ANTIQUE.

ENERGY CRACKLES...



SPLOOTCH!

I'M STUCK!!

AND THE HARDER I TRY TO ESCAPE, THE MORE STUCK I BECOME!

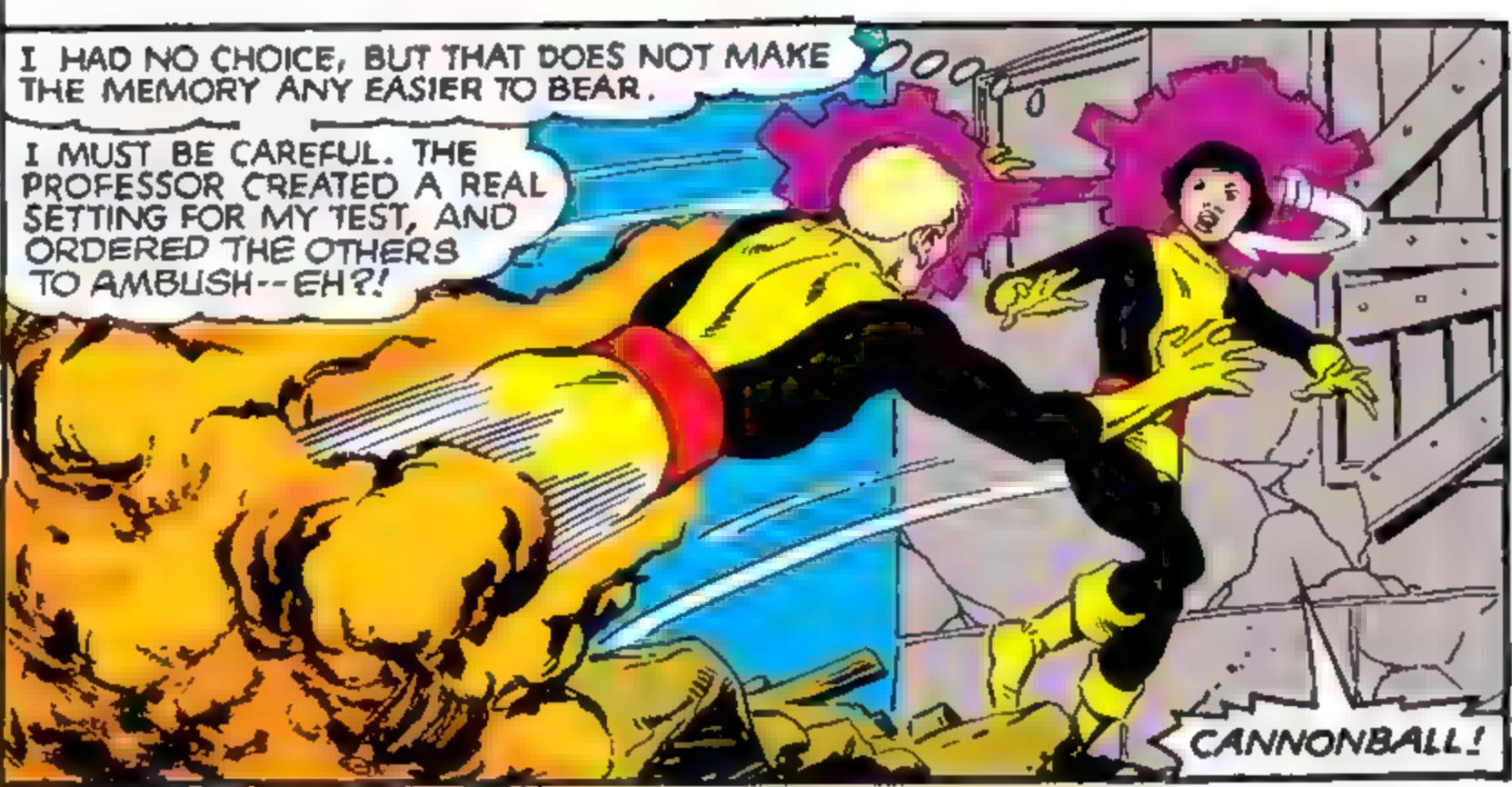
... AND REVERTS TO NORMAL.

THE OTHERS ARE LAUGHING-- WHY DO I FEEL SO AFRAID?

I DON'T UNDERSTAND. THE ROOM CAN'T REALLY HURT ME.

ALSO-- SINCE HIS RESERVE OF ENERGY IS LIMITED-- THE MORE HE USES, THE SOONER HE BURNS HIMSELF OUT...

YET THE THOUGHT OF ENTERING IT SCARES ME TO DEATH.



PSYCHE.

I CAN'T. IF I ENTER THE DANGER ROOM, I'LL DIE.

THAT'S STUPID. GET AHOOLD OF YOURSELF, GIRL. THE OTHERS GOT THROUGH WITHOUT A SCRATCH. SO WILL YOU.



PSYCHE, IT'S YOUR TURN.

IS SOMETHING THE MATTER, CHILD? YOU SEEM TENSE.

NO. I'M FINE.

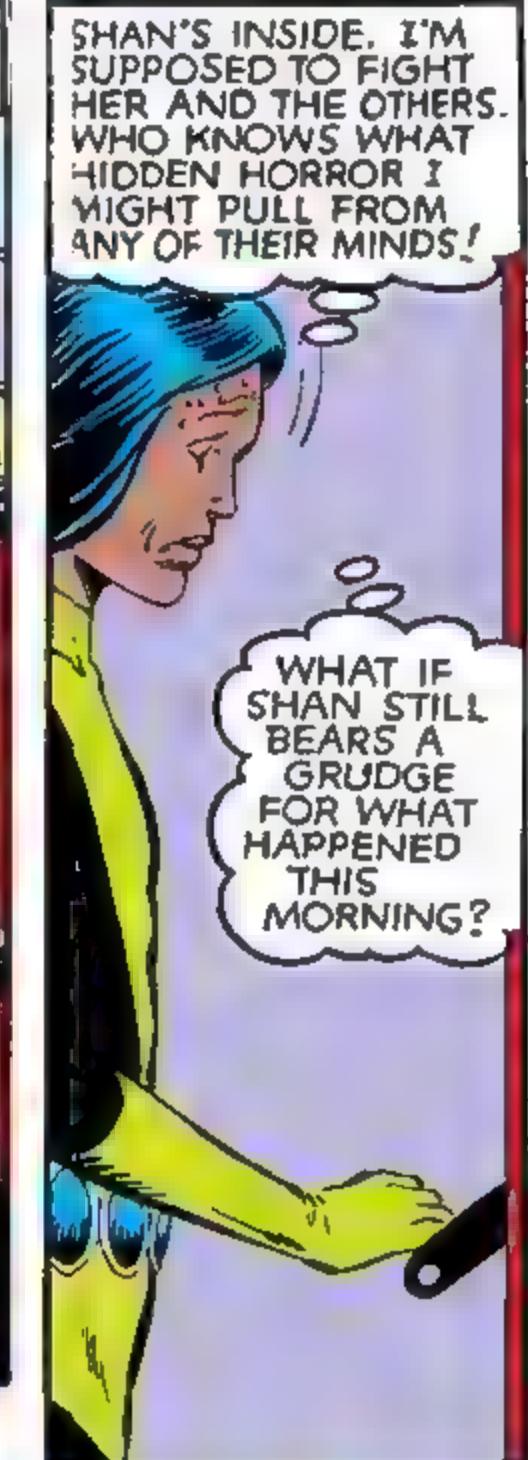
DOES HE KNOW THIS, TOO?! HAS HE LOOKED INTO MY MIND AND SEEN I'M A COWARD?!



I'VE NEVER BEEN SO SCARED. IT GETS WORSE WITH EVERY STEP.

SHAN'S INSIDE. I'M SUPPOSED TO FIGHT HER AND THE OTHERS. WHO KNOWS WHAT HIDDEN HORROR I MIGHT PULL FROM ANY OF THEIR MINDS!

WHAT IF SHAN STILL BEARS A GRUDGE FOR WHAT HAPPENED THIS MORNING?



WITH THAT CRY...



...TORN FROM HER HEART AND SOUL...



... DANI RUNS FOR HER LIFE ...

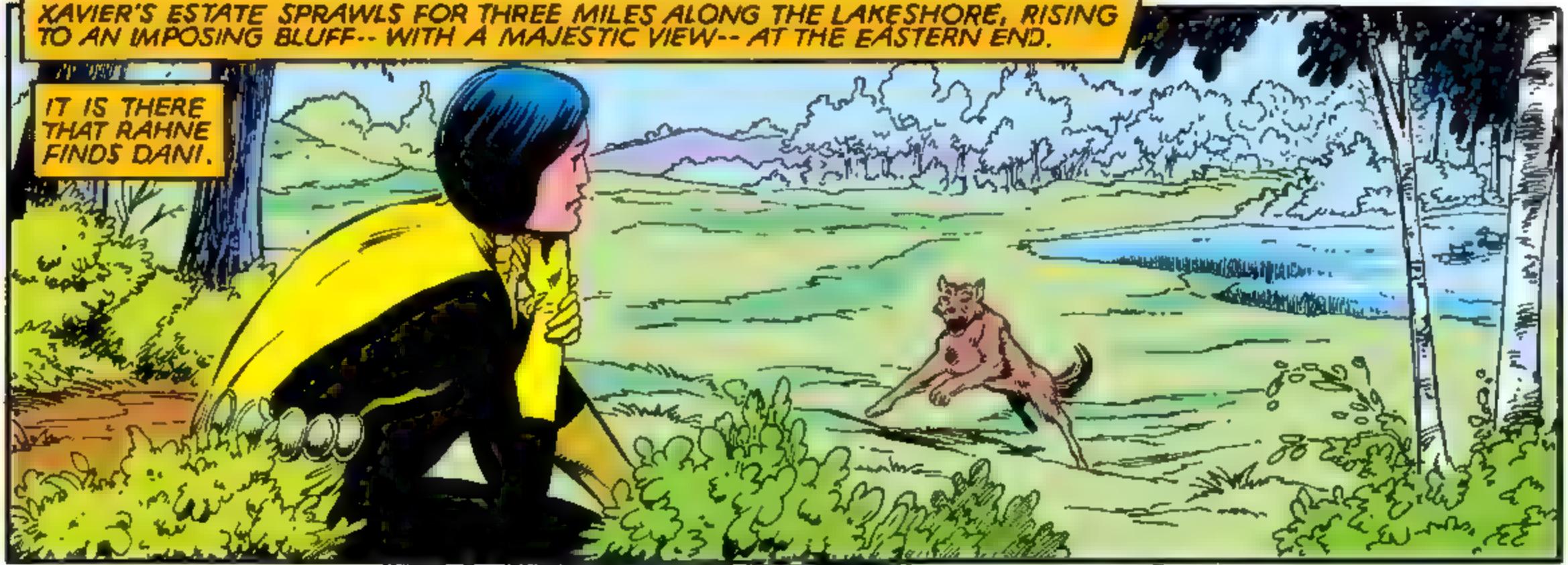


... AS IF ALL THE DEVILS IN HELL ARE NIPPING AT HER HEELS.



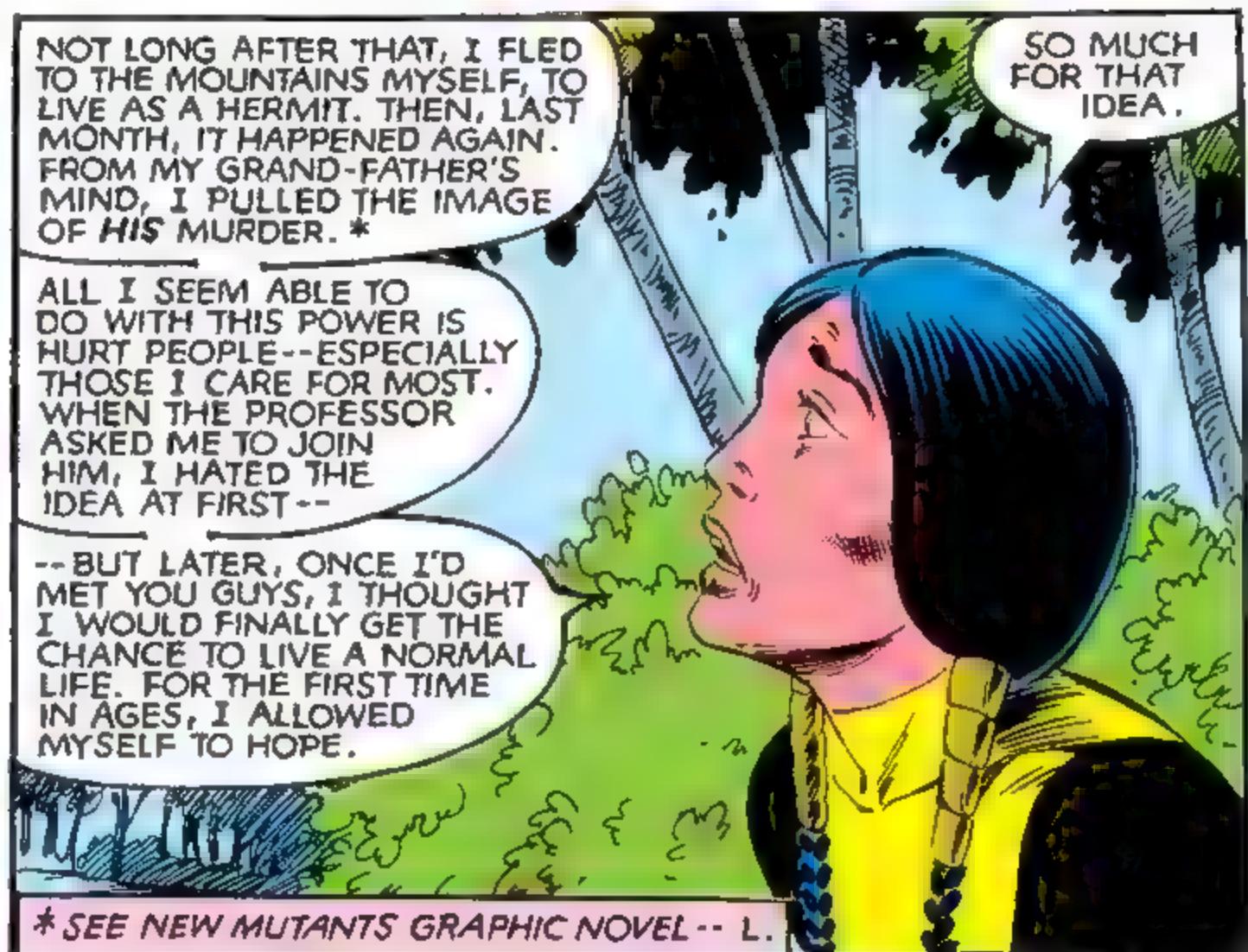
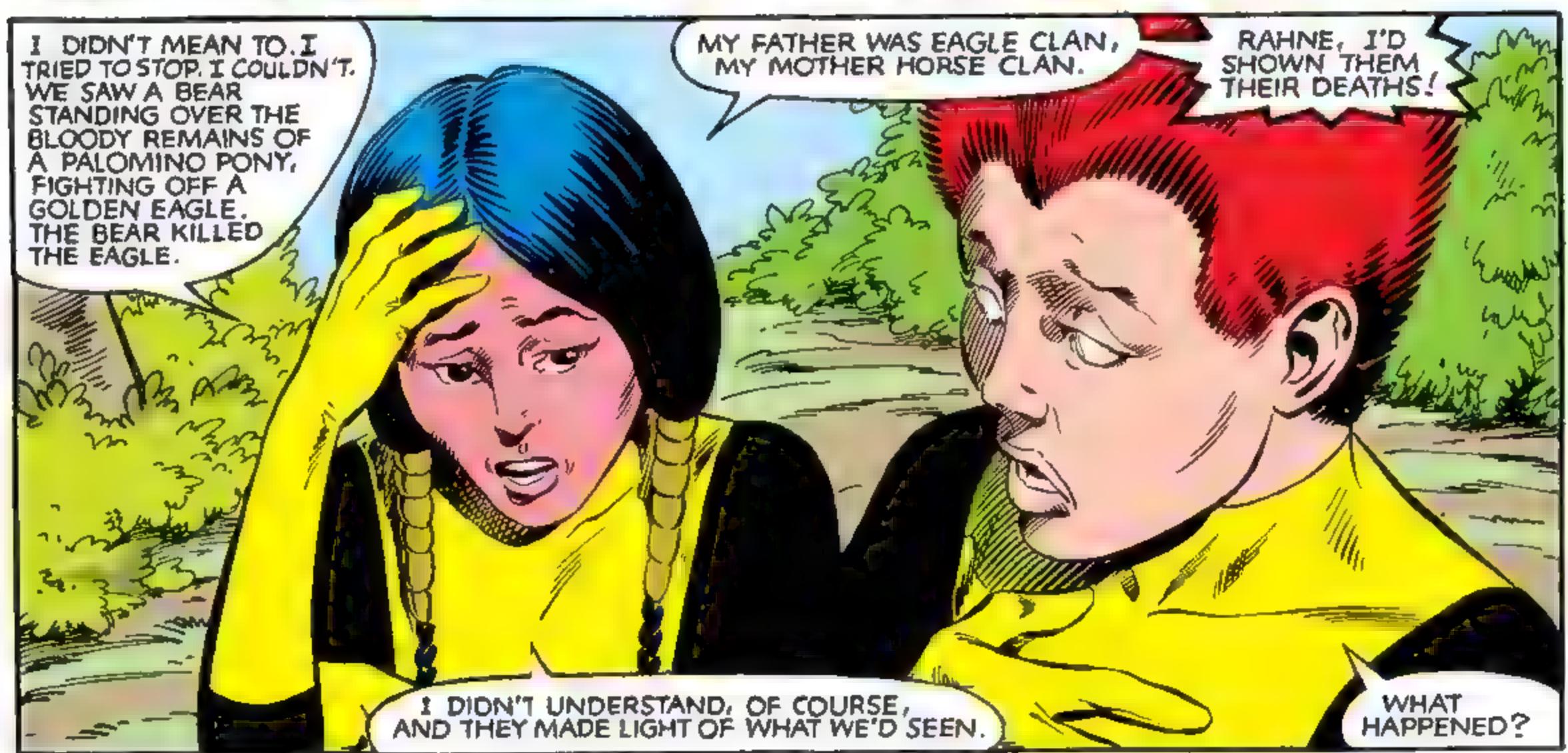
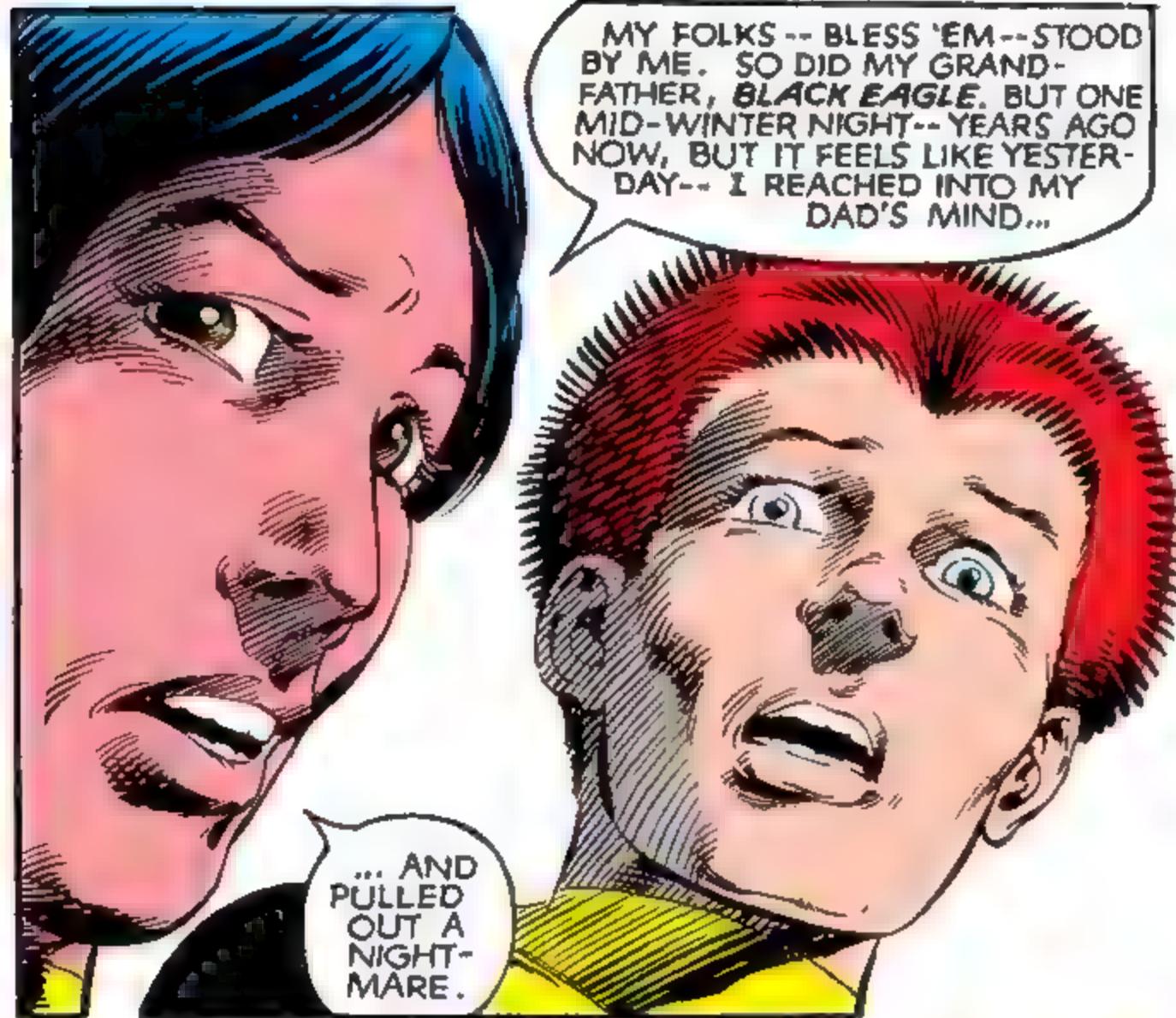
XAVIER'S ESTATE SPRAWLS FOR THREE MILES ALONG THE LAKESHORE, RISING TO AN IMPOSING BLUFF-- WITH A MAJESTIC VIEW-- AT THE EASTERN END.

IT IS THERE THAT RAHNE FINDS DANI.



I THINK SO. I'VE NOT QUITE WORKED EVERYTHING OUT YET.

I NAE HAD ANY T' SPEAK OF-- IN SCOTLAND.



NOT ONLY HAVE I HURT SHAN, BUT I'VE DISGRACED MY NAME AND HERITAGE-- I'M A COWARD, RAHNE! I COULDN'T FACE SOMETHING THE REST OF YOU HANDLED WITH EASE!

I WAS SCARED, DANI.

BUT YOU DIDN'T RUN.

DANI, Y' MUST NA' BLAME YOURSELF...

...FOR SOMETHING THAT ISNA' YOUR FAULT. NONE OF US REALLY KNOW WHAT WE'RE ABOUT WITH OUR POWERS. WE'RE ALL LEARNING-- IS NA' THA' WHY WE'RE HERE?!

PLEASE BELIEVE ME, DANI, SHAN DOES NA' BLAME YOU! SHE KNOWS IT WAS AN ACCIDENT! SHE REACTED THE WAY SHE DID BECAUSE YOU CAUGHT HER BY SURPRISE. AN' IF SHE WERE HERE BESIDE ME, SHE'D TELL YOU SO HERSEL'-- WHAT'S THAT?!

HONK HONK

STEVIE'S CAR HORN. YOU GOING SOMEWHERE?

HERE COMES RAHNE. NO SIGN OF DANI, THOUGH.

CHARLES

WAS AWFULLY

RELUCTANT TO SEARCH FOR HER TELEPATHICALLY. HE DIDN'T SEEM TERRIBLY DISTURBED BY HER PANIC, EITHER. MAYBE I'M OUT OF LINE, BUT THE KID SEEMED PRETTY UPSET TO ME. CHARLES' IGNORING THE PROBLEM WON'T MAKE IT GO AWAY.

HEY! WATCH THE CLAWS! THIS IS A BRAND-NEW OUTFIT!

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS, ROBERTO. AT LEAST SHE ISN'T Sopping WET AND COVERED WITH MUD, LIKE LAST TIME.

HOPE SHE DON'T TRY THIS STUNT WHEN SHE'S FULL GROWN. WE COULD GET SQUISHED.

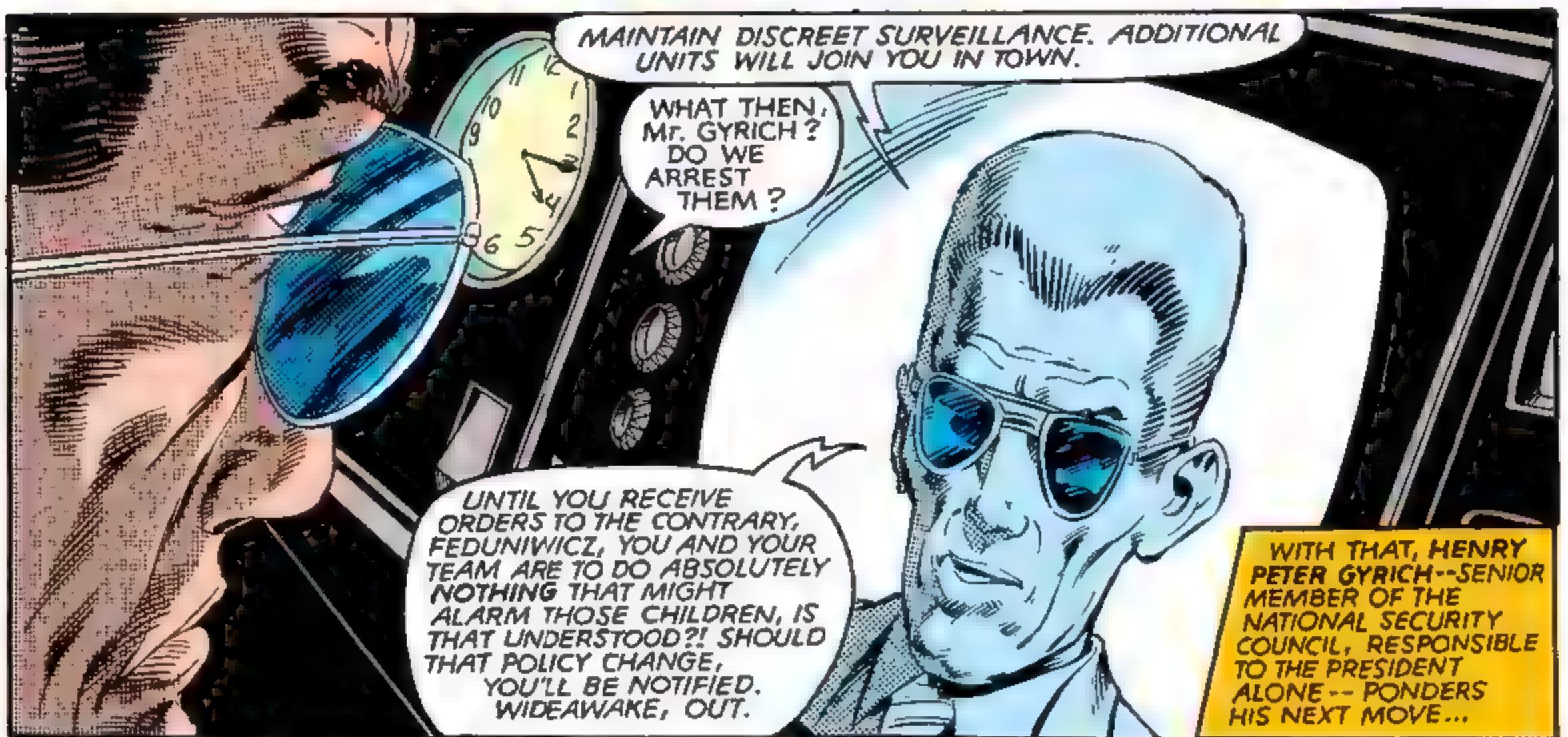
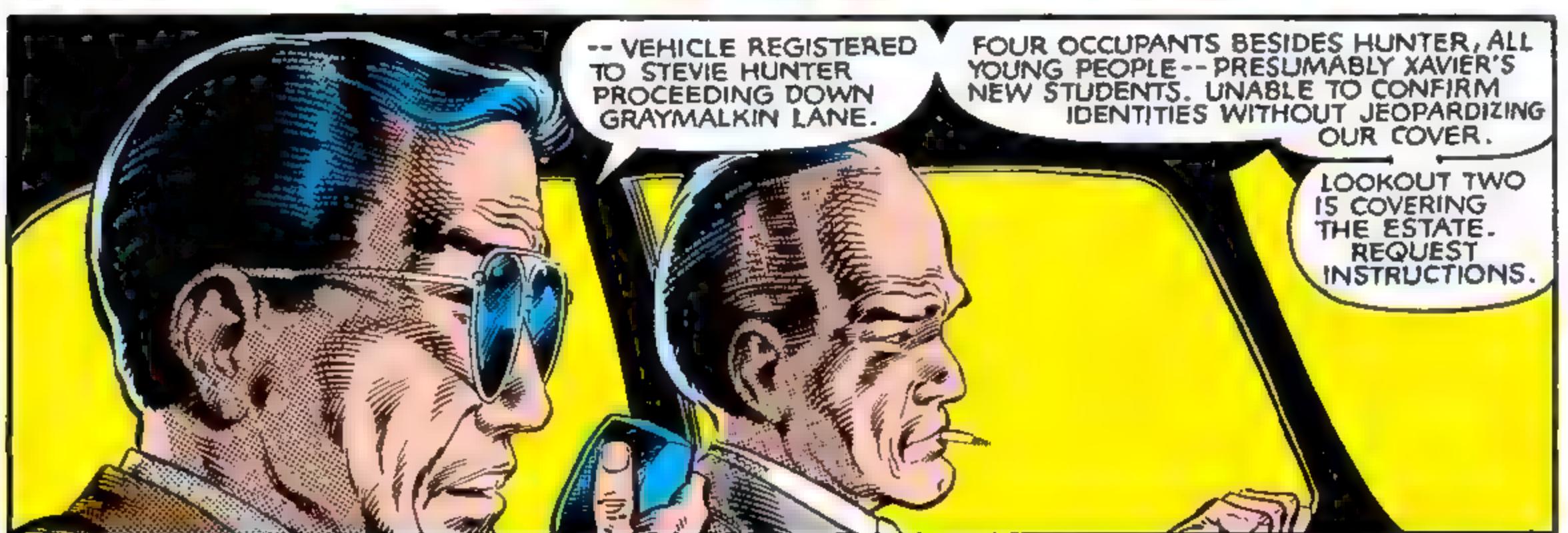
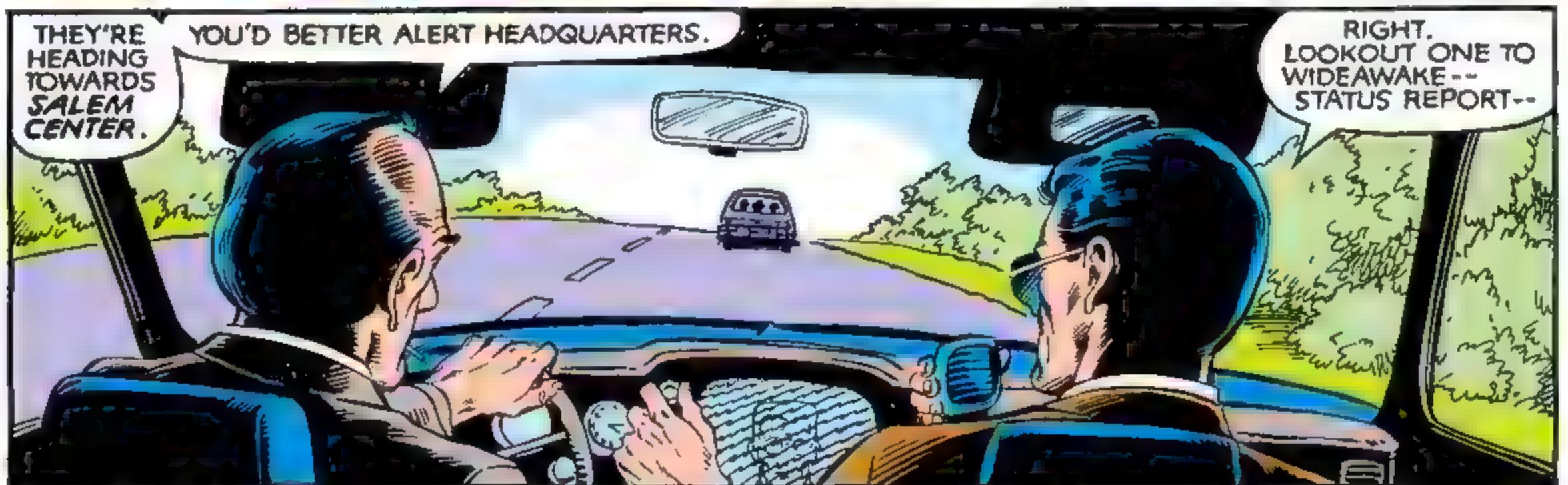
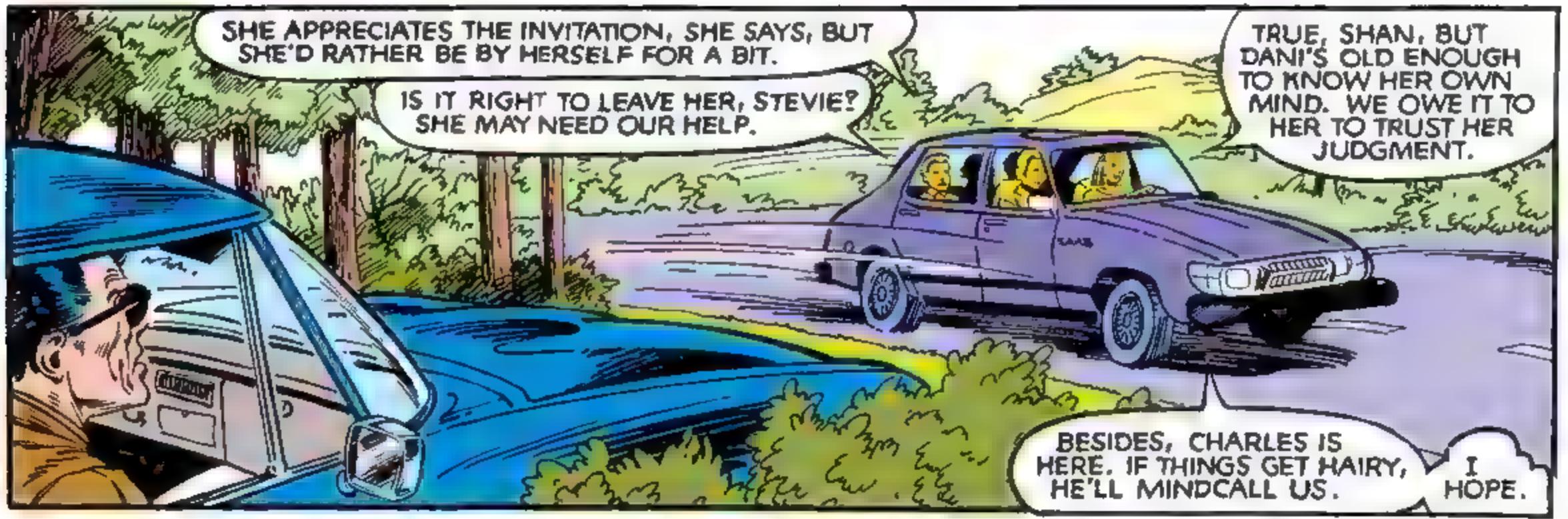
WHAT D'YOU MEAN, "WE?!"? YOU'RE IN THE FRONT SEAT, WHERE IT'S SAFE!

THEN AGAIN, HER BEING FULL GROWN MIGHT HAVE... OTHER COMPENSATIONS.

I BEG YUUR PARDON!

I FOUND DANI!

IS SHE ALL RIGHT? IS SHE COMING WITH US?!



... WHILE, BACK AT THE MANSION...



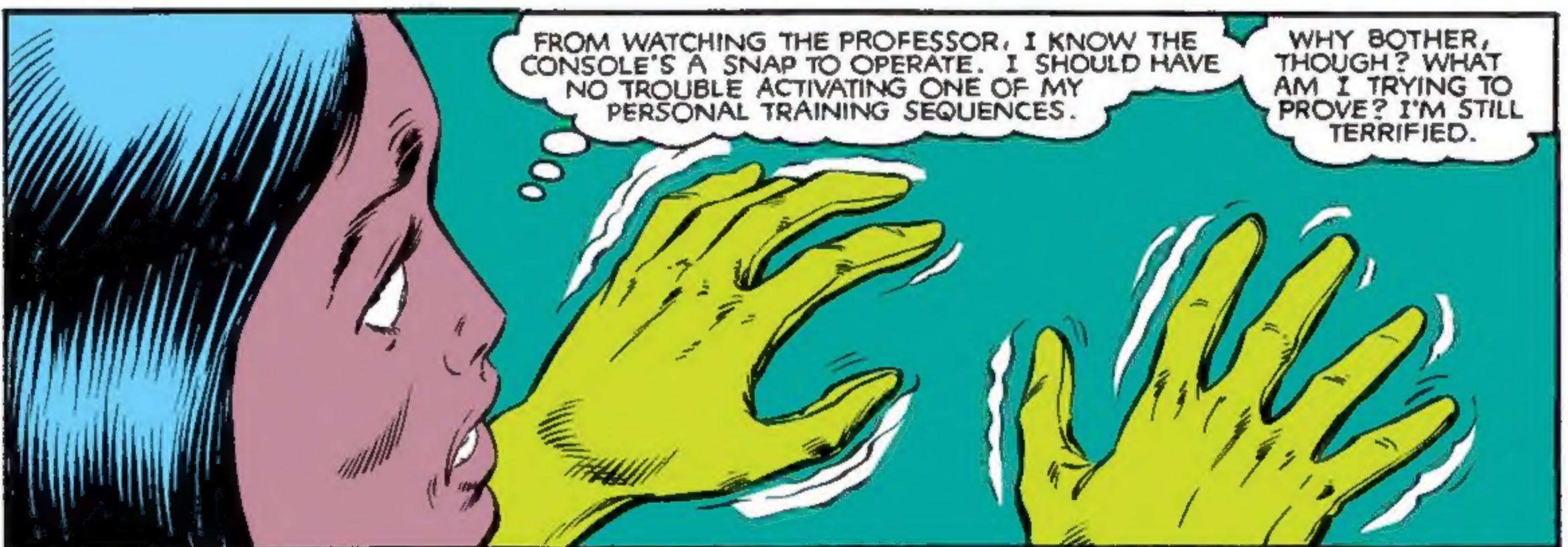
THERE'S NO SIGN OF THE PROFESSOR. HE MUST HAVE GONE OUT, TOO.



I'M GLAD. EVEN THOUGH I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO DO THIS ALONE, I DON'T WANT ANY WITNESSES-- NO ONE BUT ME TO KNOW WHETHER I SUCCEEDED...



...OR FAILED.



MAYBE THAT'S THE POINT. I WANT TO RUN-- WITH ALL MY HEART. AND SO, I BET, DID MOM AND DAD, AND GRANDFATHER. I'D SHOWED THEM THE MOMENT OF THEIR DOOM-- IN ALL ITS HORROR-- YET THEY FACED IT.

I MIGHT NOT BE GOOD ENOUGH TO STAY HERE-- I MAY FLUNK OUT OF THIS SCHOOL-- BUT ONLY AFTER I'VE TRIED MY VERY BEST. COME WHAT MAY, I'LL BE ABLE TO HOLD MY HEAD HIGH, WITHOUT SHAME, AS A CHEYENNE SHOULD!

MY FAMILY ARE PEOPLE OF HONOR AND COURAGE, PROFESSOR. YOU'LL FIND I'M CAST FROM THE SAME MOLD!



THE INSTANT SHE STEPS ACROSS THE DANGER ROOM'S THRESHOLD, THE TEST BEGINS...

OH!

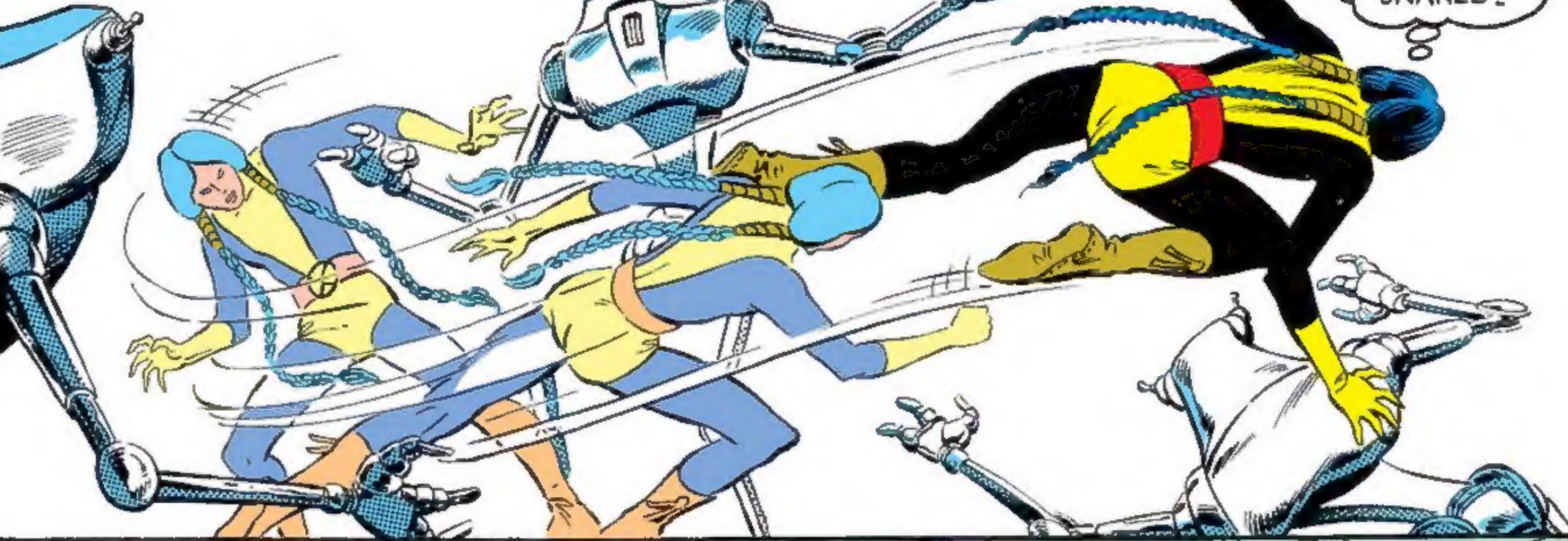
ROBOTS!

MY POWER ONLY WORKS AGAINST LIVING BEINGS! IT'S USELESS AGAINST THESE THINGS. BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I'M HELPLESS.

FAR FROM IT!

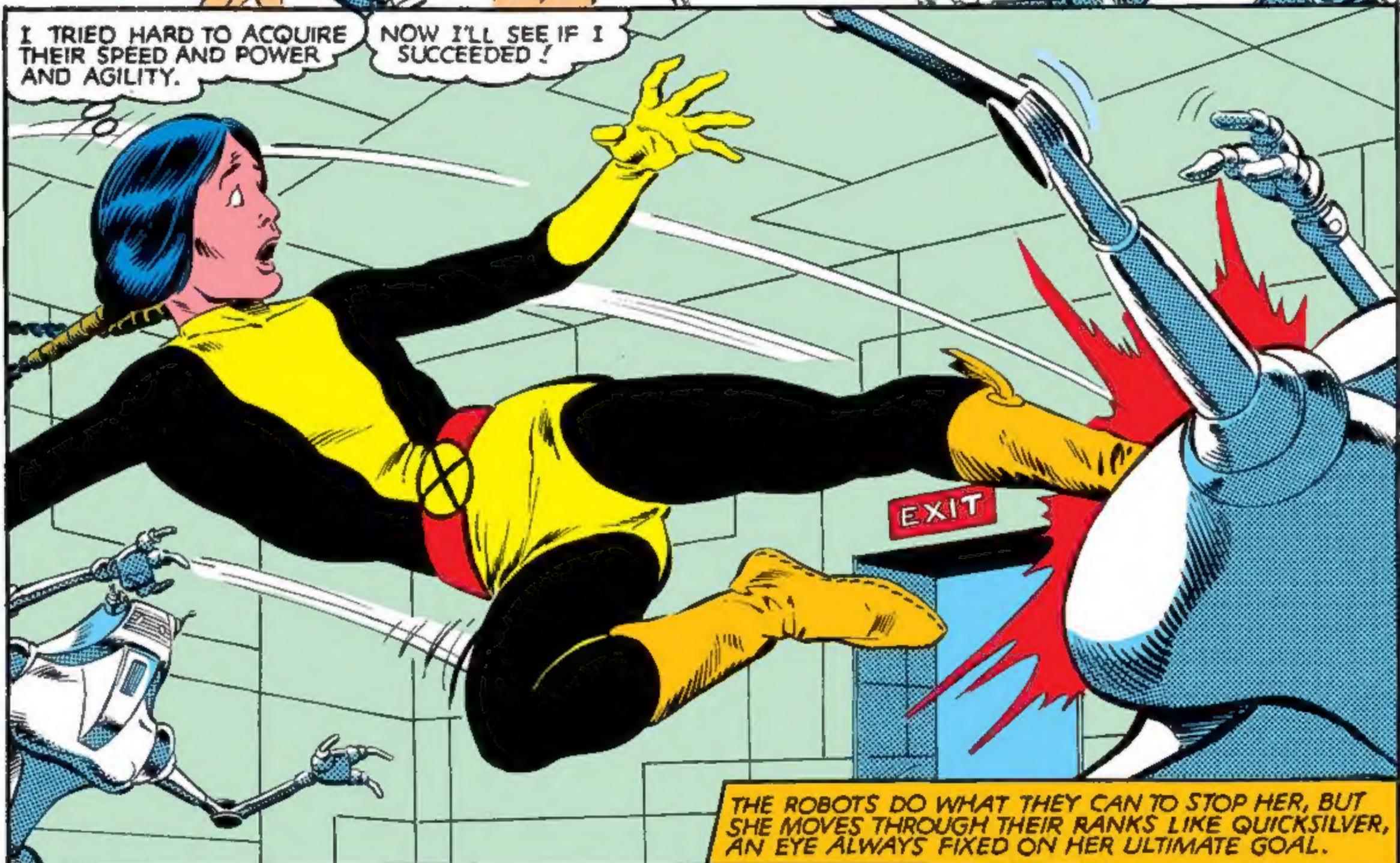
I'VE BEEN ROAMING THE MOUNTAINS SINCE I COULD WALK, HUNTING AND PLAYING WITH THE ANIMALS--WHO WERE MY ONLY TRUE FRIENDS, EVEN THEN.

I LEARNED ALL THEY COULD TEACH ME--ABOUT FIGHTING, AND NOT GETTING SNARED!

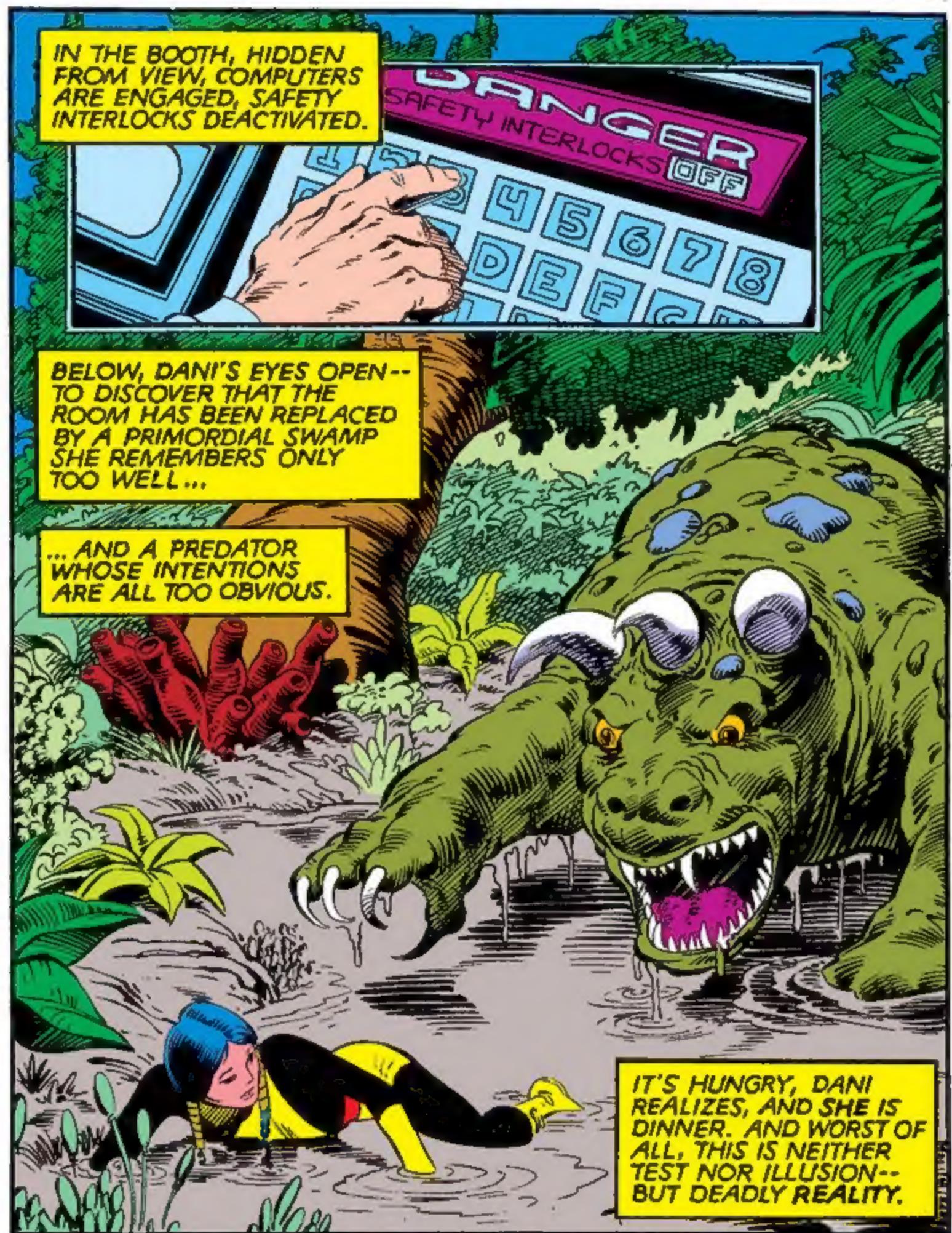
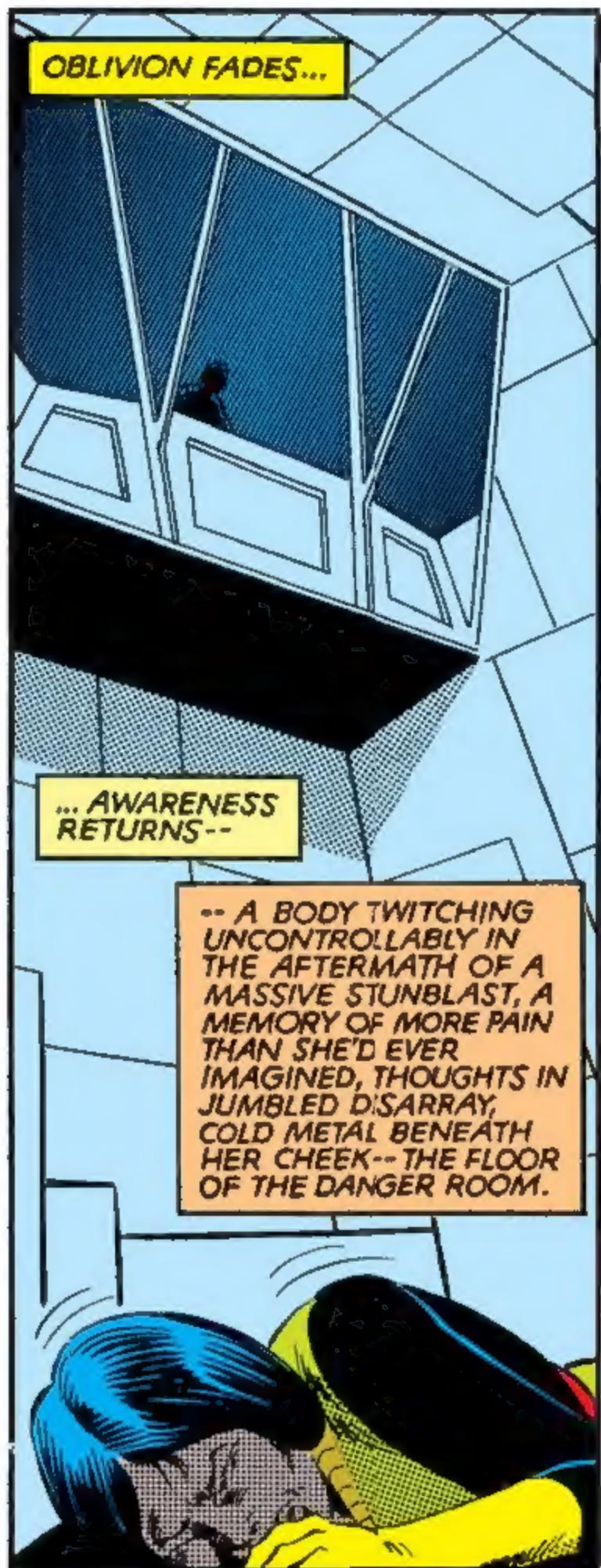


I TRIED HARD TO ACQUIRE THEIR SPEED AND POWER AND AGILITY.

NOW I'LL SEE IF I SUCCEEDED!



THE ROBOTS DO WHAT THEY CAN TO STOP HER, BUT SHE MOVES THROUGH THEIR RANKS LIKE QUICKSILVER, AN EYE ALWAYS FIXED ON HER ULTIMATE GOAL.



NEXT ISSUE:

TENTINELT

